

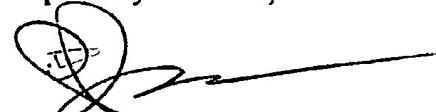
## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pursuant to a teleconference with the Examiner regarding the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that the process Claims, i.e., 48-51 and 55-61 would be allowed upon cancellation of Claims 37-47, 53, 54, 62 and 74-77, composition/product by process claims. By this Amendment, the latter claims have been cancelled. Additionally, applicant has added a new Claim 78, which depends on either Claim 48 or 49 and which simply recites that the hydrothermal treatment is conducted at a temperature of between 220 and 260°C, and a partial water vapor pressure of between 16 and 25 bar<sub>abs</sub>.

Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application directed to the cancelled claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 48-51, 55-61 and 78 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby earnestly solicited and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 3, 2004

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Cathy Hayes, hereby certify that this correspondence and all referenced enclosures are being deposited by me with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 3, 2004.

By: 